

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 8 are canceled. No new matter is added.

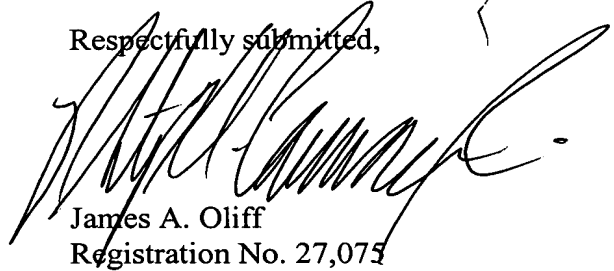
Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments merely cancel the rejected claims); (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Final Rejection that claims 1-6 are allowable. The Office Action rejects claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,411,641 to Shirai et al. in view of JP 06-092796. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 8 are canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance of claims 1-6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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